

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 006261

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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TAGS: PORG, UPU

SUBJECT: UPU - GENEVA GROUP SUB-GROUP PREPARATIONS

REF: GENEVA 82

1. WE CONCUR IN MISSION VIEWS THAT MEETING OF UPU SUB-GROUP PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 4-6 GG SUMMIT MEETING WOULD BE USEFUL. WE BELIEVE MAJOR THRUST OF MEETING SHOULD BE TO PROVIDE VEHICLE FOR NEW CO-CHAIRMEN AND OTHER SUB-GROUP MEMBERS TO BECOME ACQUAINTED AND TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES IN BROAD TERMS WITH MUTUAL CONCERNS RE UPU. GIVEN NEWNESS OF SUBGROUP MEMBERS, SHORT TIME FRAME AND FACT THAT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION NOT YET AVAILABLE, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREMATURE DRAFT ANY MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO GG SUMMIT, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD ENCOURAGE THIS IF AGREEMENT POSSIBLE.

2. PROPOSED UK AGENDA ENCLOSED IN BROWN LETTER TO STRAUS OF OCTOBER 14 APPEARS SUITABLE. OUR COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL AGENDA ITEMS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. REPORT ON CONGRESS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT UK REP PRE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 006261

PARED PRESENT BRIEF FACTUAL REPORT AT MAY SUBGROUP MEETING

ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY 1974 CONGRESS; PLEASE CONFIRM WITH UK REP.

B. MATTERS OF CONTINUING INTEREST ARISING FROM CONGRESS.

(1) INDICATIONS THAT NEW DG PLANS ANY SIGNIFICANT MANAGEMENT OR PERSONNEL CHANGES IN IB;

(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: ANY CHANGES FORESEEN IN UPU'S TA SYSTEM, SUCH AS ATTEMPT TO INCORPORATE TA FUNDING WITHIN REGULAR BUDGET;

(3) INDICATIONS OF HOW NEW LANGUAGE PROGRAM WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AND LEVEL OF EXPENSE INVOLVED. NOTE: THIS ITEM WAS SUBJECT OF ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE AND CLOSE VOTE AT 1974 CONGRESS WITH GG MEMBERS ON BOTH SIDES OF ISSUE. ACCORDINGLY THIS SUBJECT STILL SENSITIVE AND IF UK REP AGREES, DISCUSSION MAY BE DEFERRED UNTIL LATER.

C. POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF CONTACTS WITH INTERNATIONAL BUREAU. IN PAST IB HAS NOT TAKEN OFFICIAL COGNIZANCE OF GG SUBGROUP AND IT NOT LIKELY THIS SITUATION WILL CHANGE. NONETHELESS DISCREET DISCUSSION AND SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO IMPROVE GG-IB RELATIONS AND CONTACTS MIGHT BE DESIRABLE.

D. CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS; NEW CEILING ARRANGEMENTS. AS UPU RECEIVES CONTRIBUTIONS IN SWISS FRANCS, UNION LESS SUBJECT TO CURRENCY FLUCTUATION THAN OTHER IO'S. AS MISSION AWARE, CONGRESS CONTROLS UPU BUDGETS BY SETTING CEILINGS ON INCREASE FROM ONE YEAR TO NEXT - E.G., 1976 BUDGET CANNOT INCREASE MORE THAN EIGHT PERCENT OVER 1975. SUBGROUP MEMBERS SHOULD BE ALERT TO ANY ATTEMPT BY IB TO CONSIDER EIGHT PERCENT INCREASE AUTOMATIC.

E. APPORTIONMENT OF EXPENSES. SUBGROUP SHOULD DISCUSS CURRENT STATUS OF CONTRIBUTIONS, INCLUDING BOTH UPWARD AND DOWNWARD MOVEMENT IN CONTRIBUTORY CATEGORIES. NOTE: REQUEST MISSION OFFICER OBTAIN FROM IB LATEST REPORT ON CURRENT CONTRIBUTORY CATEGORIES OF ALL MEMBERS AND POUCH TO DEPT.

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PAGE 03 STATE 006261

F. BUDGETS FOR 1975/76. BELIEVE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION THESE ITEMS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AFTER EC DOCS DISTRIBUTED, ABOUT MARCH 15; NONETHELESS SUBGROUP MEMBERS SHOULD BE ALERT TO ANY POSSIBLE EFFORT BY IB TO PROPOSE EXCESSIVE 1976 INCREASES.

G. REPORT ON MAIN GG MEETING INCLUDING ECOSOC IN-DEPTH
STUDY. GG MEMBERS MIGHT IMPRESS UPON IB NEED TO PREPARE
MORE COMPREHENSIVE THAN USUAL REPORT TO ECOSOC TO FACILI-

TATE STUDY.

3. PLEASE ADVISE OF DEVELOPMENTS. KISSINGER

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